



3 1761 11548207 7

Debris Burning

Government
Publications

If you live in, or near, a wooded area, you've got a lot more to lose than all those who use the forests for recreation, work or travel. After all, if the nearby trees go up in smoke, so might your cottage or your home! Well, you know that. So you're careful every time you burn debris. But, are you careful enough? Or are you just lucky?

Hundreds of rural residents and cottagers in Ontario aren't so lucky. Each year, through ignorance or carelessness, this group sets an average of 130 forest fires. Nearly one-third of these are attributable to rubbish burning. Altogether, about 100,000 acres of Ontario's 250,000 square miles of forests are burned over every year. (An acre is about the size of two cottage lots.)

Not only are many existing, and potential, home and cottage sites lost — but millions of dollars worth of timber, jobs and recreation land, as well. And the money spent on fire suppression, and reforestation due to forest fires, could be spent on creating more and better outdoor recreation facilities.

Since rubbish, itself, can become a fire hazard, the Ontario Forest Fires Prevention Act forbids the accumulation of flammable debris within 1/2 mile of a town or village.

It's not a bad idea to burn that debris, then. But first, get a permit at your local Ministry of Natural Resources office. You can't set a rubbish fire without one. Also, be sure to check with that office on local conditions.

Remember, even a small forest fire is costly and potentially dangerous. Make sure you know exactly what you're doing before you burn debris. Follow the rules given here.

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY MATERIAL



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

CARON
NR
- Z 231

Never burn debris without a permit. Burn where and when it's safe.

GET A FIRE PERMIT. It's easily obtainable from the local Ministry of Natural Resources office. During the fire season, April 1 through October 31, the Forest Fires Prevention Act prohibits lighting any fire without a permit, other than for cooking or for warmth. Your fire permit must be kept at the site of your burning operation, and shown to an officer upon request. It may be cancelled or suspended at any time by an officer. You must put your fire out immediately upon such notification.

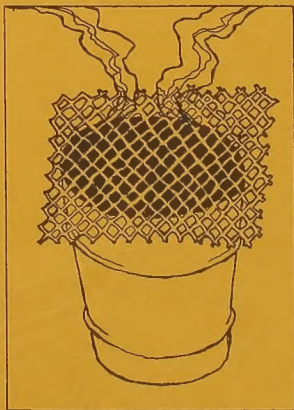
FIRE CAUSES... RESIDENTS



CHECK ON LOCAL CONDITIONS AND FIRE LAWS. The Ministry of Natural Resources office can give you this information. They'll let you know if conditions are too dry and hazardous for safe burning.

CHOOSE A SAFE DAY — COOL, DAMP, NOT TOO WINDY. Any fire is much more likely to get out of control on a hot, dry, windy day. Burn during the coolest, dampest, calmest times of day — before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

IF POSSIBLE, USE A PROPER INCINERATOR. Incinerators are recommended as the safest way to burn debris. If you use one, according to regulation, it must be wholly constructed of a noncombustible material. Metal or steel is recommended. The law also states that the opening must be covered with a heavy-duty mesh screen. The mesh size must not be larger than 1/4 inch. A rag or other debris could float away in an updraft and come down in the forest.



LOCATE YOUR FIRE AWAY FROM A WOODED AREA. Choose a site that's at least 15 feet from the woods and make sure it's either bare rock or bare mineral soil.

CLEAR A 5-FOOT AREA AROUND YOUR FIRE. Make sure you clear the area right down to bare rock or bare mineral soil. Twigs, brush and grasses catch fire easily and can act as a "fuse" to set the surrounding woods ablaze.

STAY WITH YOUR BURNING OPERATION. Whether it's open or in an incinerator, no fire should ever be left unattended. When it's burned through, drown it. Make sure the fire is completely out before you leave the site.

REPORT ANY OUT-OF-CONTROL FIRE IMMEDIATELY! Remember, these regulations are law. Conviction of violation can result in fine and/or imprisonment.

